

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said cartilage plug having a plurality of ridges, comprising at least one ridge formed outward of and extending about an outermost maximal periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges defining parallel planes substantially perpendicular to the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said ridges are discontinuous and are situated at discrete portions of said plug.

16. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a cylindrical shape.

17. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said mass has a polyhedral shape.

18. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein the cross-section of the distal end of said mass differs from the cross-section of the proximal end of said mass.

19. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 15, wherein said mass has a frusto-conical shape.

20. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a barb shaped cross-section.

21. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein each such ridge has a rib shaped cross-section.

22. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has a bore formed therein.

23. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 22, wherein bore has ridges formed on its interior surface.

24. (Currently amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said cartilage plug having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and

extending about an outermost maximal periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges comprising a single helix about the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug, wherein said plug is formed of laminated materials, said materials having different hardness's hardnesses.

25. (Currently amended) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said cartilage plug having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about an outermost maximal periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges comprising a single helix about the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug, wherein said plug has porous surfaces.

26. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug is formed of laminated materials, said materials having different hardnesses.

27. (Previously presented) The cartilage plug of claim 12, wherein said plug has porous surfaces.

28. (Previously presented) A cartilage plug for insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living being, comprising a preformed mass of an artificial biomedical material having a central axis and a three dimensional shape adapted for insertion into said void so as to at least partially fill said void, said cartilage plug having a plurality of ridges formed outward of and extending about an outermost periphery of the preformed mass, the plurality of ridges comprising a single helix about the central axis, and a lubricious surface on at least one end of the cartilage plug.

29. (New) A cartilage plug according to claim 12 wherein a plurality of ridges are formed outward of and extending about the outermost maximal periphery of the preformed mass.

30. (New) A cartilage plug according to claim 12 wherein substantially all of the ridges are formed outward of and extending about the outermost maximal periphery of the preformed mass.